

In the specification:

Please replace paragraph on page 1, lines 7-8 with the following amended paragraph:

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/496,843 now U.S. Patent No. 6,721,279 which claims ~~This application claims~~ the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/118,397, filed February 2, 1999, hereby incorporated by reference.

Please replace paragraph on page 12, line 20 to page 13, line 3 with the following amended paragraph:

The aforementioned estimation algorithm can be easily extended to a FSE+DFE/NPD structure as shown in **FIG.5**, which further includes a noise-predictor 502 (NPD) and summers 504 and 507. Let the taps of NPD ~~[[414]]~~ 502 be denoted by  $\{q_i\}_{i=1}^N$  and define a new  $(L+N-1) \times 1$  filter coefficient vector as

$$\mathbf{w} = [\mathbf{b}^T, \mathbf{0}^T]^T + [\mathbf{q}^T, \mathbf{0}^T]^T + [0, \mathbf{b}^T \otimes \mathbf{q}^T]^T$$

where  $\otimes$  denotes the vector convolution. Then the equalizer in **FIG.5** can be simplified as in **FIG.6** and the proposed algorithm can be adopted. More particularly, a  $Z^{-1}$  block 602, and NPD 502, and a W block 604 are configured as shown.